

most of those costs. The budget makes veterans pay \$250 to enroll in health services and doubles their copayments for prescription drugs, changes which will affect more than 2 million veterans. It makes veterans wait longer for claims to be processed, delaying very vital medical services. It provides a dismal 1.7 percent increase in funding, far from the 14 percent the Veterans Affairs Department really needs to sustain its current services.

President Bush's budget also forgets about the new veterans serving abroad. Over 1,400 have been killed, 11,000 injured, and 10 in my district alone have been killed. These military families are struggling right now. They lack mental health care and other needed services such as bilingual services. They also lack burial funds. Let us keep our commitment and not cut back the budget.

#### NEVER GIVE UP

(Mr. COBLE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. COBLE. Mr. Speaker, last week in Ashland, Virginia, Randolph Macon College hosted Guilford College for a collegiate basketball game. With the game tied in overtime and six-tenths of a second remaining, a Randolph Macon player was awarded two free throws. He converted his first one and intentionally missed the second, concluding that time did not permit Guilford to make a play.

Normally, that would have been sound strategy, but Guilford's Jordan Snipes grabbed the rebound and desperately heaved the ball the length of the court. Nothing but net and Guilford won on the shot seen around the world.

The moral of the story: whether in athletics or in life, even with the odds overwhelmingly stacked against you, do not quit. Do not give up, there is always a chance, even though remote, to prevail.

#### 2006 BUDGET IS FISCALLY RESPONSIBLE

(Ms. FOXX asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I commend President Bush for proposing a fiscally responsible budget that will rein in Federal spending and protect our top priorities, such as national defense, homeland security, and job creation.

While we may have some differences of opinion on a few of the details, I believe the President's budget is a good first step in the right direction. I am encouraged that he wants to hold Federal programs to a firm test of accountability and eliminate programs that no longer serve their intended purpose or perform a vital function. This action alone will save over \$20 billion in 2006.

The President's proposed budget will also save an additional \$137 billion in spending during the next 10 years. I look forward to working with the President and Congress to craft a budget that will cut our Federal budget in half by 2009 and improve our economy.

#### PELL GRANTS

(Mr. KELLER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. KELLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak in favor of a part of President Bush's budget that receives no fanfare or publicity, and that is Pell grants.

Pell grants are dollars we give to children from low- and moderate-income families to help them go to college. I personally would not have been able to go to college without Pell grants, and I serve as chairman of the Congressional Pell Grant Caucus.

When I was elected to Congress in 2000, I made increasing Pell grant funding my top priority, and with this budget, President Bush has done his part, too.

Looking at this chart, let us compare the funding situation in 2000 to the new budget proposal. Overall funding has increased 137 percent. Maximum Pell grant awards are up from \$3,300 to \$4,150, and an additional 1.6 million students are now able to go to college.

Mr. Speaker, Pell grants are truly the passport out of poverty for so many worthy young people, and I urge my colleagues to vote "yes" on this budget.

#### HELPING THE IRAQI PEOPLE

(Mr. WILSON of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, tomorrow the International Relations Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigation is scheduled to review the Volcker Interim Report on the United Nations Oil-For-Food Program. I would like to thank the gentleman from Illinois (Chairman HYDE) and the gentleman from California (Mr. ROHRBACHER), the subcommittee chairman, for their leadership on this important issue.

While the United States prides itself as being "the premier vehicle for furthering development in poorer countries," its Oil-For-Food Program allegedly furthered Saddam Hussein's dictatorship over the Iraqi people. During my travels to Iraq, I have seen the numerous palaces of Saddam Hussein and the devastation his rule left on the people of Iraq.

I am outraged to think a U.N.-sponsored program designed to help the Iraqi people was so easily corrupted and manipulated to serve the dictatorship's interests. The diverted funds should be recovered for the people of Iraq.

I strongly support the legislation offered by the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. FLAKE) entitled United Nations Oil-for-Food Accountability Act. This legislation would require the United States to withhold a portion of its U.N. contributions until the U.N. fully cooperates with the Oil-for-Food investigation. American taxpayer dollars should not support programs or people who obstruct our efforts to promote democracy and spread freedom throughout the world.

In conclusion, may God bless our troops, and we will never forget September 11.

#### COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. STEARNS) laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
Washington, DC, February 7, 2005.

Hon. J. DENNIS HASTERT,  
Speaker, House of Representatives,  
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, I have the honor to transmit a sealed envelope received from the White House on February 7, 2005 at 1 p.m. and said to contain a message from the President whereby he transmits the Budget of the United States Government for Fiscal Year 2006 (copy enclosed).

With best wishes, I am  
Sincerely,

JEFF TRANDAH, L,  
Clerk of the House.

Attachment.

#### FISCAL YEAR 2006 BUDGET OF THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES (H. DOC. NO. 109-2)

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following message from the President of the United States; which was read and, without objection, referred to the Committee on Appropriations and ordered printed: THE BUDGET MESSAGE OF THE PRESIDENT

Over the previous four years, we have acted to restore economic growth, win the War on Terror, protect the homeland, improve our schools, rally the armies of compassion, and promote ownership. The 2006 Budget will help America continue to meet these goals. In order to sustain our economic expansion, we must continue pro-growth policies and enforce even greater spending restraint across the Federal Government. By holding Federal programs to a firm test of accountability and focusing our resources on top priorities, we are taking the steps necessary to achieve our deficit reduction goals.

Our Nation's most critical challenge since September 11, 2001, has been to protect the American people by fighting and winning the War on Terror.